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SUBJECT: SOUTHEAST TURKEY PRESS SUMMARY FOR DECEMBER 20, 2004

This is the Southeastern Turkey press summary for December 20, 2004. Please note that Turkish press reports often contain errors or exaggerations; AmConsulate Adana does not vouch for the accuracy of the reports summarized here.

#### POLITICAL, SECURITY, HUMAN RIGHTS

VAKIT / CUMHURIYET / TERCUMAN / SABAH: Scarcity of prey in the mountains for wolves, due to sharply decreasing temperatures and heavy snowfall, causes the wolves to approach villages of Yuksekova, Hakkari, and attack people. Fifteen villagers have been wounded by wolves. A sample taken from one of the wolves shot dead is being sent to Ankara for examination regarding rabies.

OZGUR GUNDEM: With the participation of 2000 people, NGOs in Kiziltepe made a press announcement in Mardin. The NGOs demanded that Minister of Education Huseyin Celik pay more attention and get more involved with the Ugur Kaymaz incident, and that the Turkish Association of Drivers be more involved in the case of Ahmet Kaymaz. Resat Kaymaz, who is the brother of Ahmet Kaymaz, denied the allegations of Mardin Deputy Security Director, (who is) saying that the weapons found beside the bodies had been used in a raid on a police station. Resat Kaymaz stated that Ahmet Kaymaz was in Iraq on the date of the raid on that police station.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Mehmet Elkatmis, the President of the TBMM Human Rights Commission, showed "incompetence" when he received the application of families whose relatives, Serdar Tanis and Ebubekir Deniz (HADEP Silopi district officials), have (allegedly) not been seen after being in Jandarama detention (note: in 2001. end note). Mehmet Elkatmis stated that the judicial proceedings about the incident are still continuing and they cannot interfere while the process is ongoing. Elkatmis sent an application form of European Court of Human Rights to the family though the family had already applied to the Court.

OZGUR GUNDEM: Twnty village guards from Beytussebap, Sirnak were removed from office without explanation. The guards were not paid their last month of salary.

#### ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

1. EVRENSEL / CUMHURIYET / MILLIYET / BOLGE / TURKIYE: The workers of a factory of CUKOBIRLIK (Cooperative Organisation for Agricultural Product Sales in Cukurova), as well as several producer members of the same organization, protested against the management of CUKOBIRLIK for shutting down a factory and firing 4000 workers in Adana. The protestors claimed that a big, full-fledged, beneficial factory that has the potential to operate with 100% capacity and employ 5000 workers was shut down simply due to ineffective and unsuccessful management. The workers carried banners reading "AKP Government, take your hands off CUKOBIRLIK," and they demanded that the factory be reopened.

2. VAKIT / HURRIYET / EKSPRES / MILLI GAZETE / YENI SAFAK: Citrus fruit producers gathered to pray for clients to buy their produce. This protest was to criticize the government for not supporting the purchase of citrus fruit at a price that would help the producers cover their costs. The producers said that the harvest of citrus fruit increased by 30% as compared to the previous year's harvest. If this amount of production is not going to be exported, it is impossible to consume it in internal markets.

3. EKSPRES / MILLI GAZETE / BOLGE: Exports are increasing thanks to the visit that the Adana Chamber of Commerce paid to Greece last year with a delegation of 90 industrialists. A furniture company signed an investment and cooperation agreement worth \$500,000 this year with a Greek firm. The president of the Adana Chamber of Industry stated that the second rapidly developing sector in Adana, after the textile industry, is the furniture-manufacturing sector.

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